WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a client-server environment, a method for providing transparency in a gateway of an IP network comprising the steps of:

 interrogating a directory comprising data for each end-user of said IP network;

 retrieving parameters associated with said data for a first end-user in response to an access request from a client application of said first end-user;

 accessing an application server on behalf of said client application in accordance with said retrieved parameters for said first end-user; and

 relaying data between said client application and said application server.

2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

 creating, in said gateway of said IP network, a directory including entries for every end-user on said IP network.

3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

 updating, in said gateway of said network, the directory of said end-users, said step of updating the directory including the steps of:

  disabling entries for those of said end-users that disconnect;

  enabling entries for those of said end-users that connect; and

  updating said entries of said end-users comprising dynamic parameters whenever said parameters are changing while connected.

1   4.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of retrieving parameters
2   associated with said end-user for said request from said client application includes the
3   steps of:
4   obtaining leading data from said client application having issued said request for
5   said end-user;
6   parsing said leading data;
7   determining a protocol said client application is currently using;
8   interrogating said directory at an entry corresponding to said first end-user;
9   retrieving parameters associated with said protocol; and
10   executing said protocol in accordance with said parameters associated with said
11   protocol.

1   5.   The method according to claim 1 further including the step of informing said
2   end-user of said client application that a server application is unavailable if a link to said
3   application server is not established.

1   6.   A data processing system for providing a gateway of an IP network, comprising:
2   circuitry operable for interrogating a directory comprising data for each end-user
3   of said IP network;
4   circuitry operable for retrieving parameters associated with said data for a first
5   end-user in response to an access request from a client application of said first end-user;
6   and
7   circuitry operable for accessing an application server on behalf of said client
8   application in accordance with said retrieved parameters for said first end-user; and
9   circuitry operable for relaying data between said client application and said
10   application server.

1 7. The system according to claim 6 further comprising:

2 circuitry operable for creating, in said gateway of said IP network, a directory

3 including entries for every end-user on said IP network.

1 8. The system according to claim 6 further comprising:

2 circuitry operable for updating, in said gateway of said network, the directory of

3 said end-users, said circuitry operable for updating the directory including:

4 circuitry operable for disabling entries for those of said end-users that

5 disconnect;

6 circuitry operable for enabling entries for those of said end-users that

7 connect; and

8 circuitry operable for updating said entries of said end-users comprising

9 dynamic parameters whenever said parameters are changing while connected.

1 9. The system according to claim 6 wherein the circuitry operable for retrieving

2 parameters associated with said end-user for said request from said client application

3 includes:

4 circuitry operable for obtaining leading data from said client application having

5 issued said request for said end-user;

6 circuitry operable for parsing said leading data;

7 circuitry operable for determining a protocol said client application is currently

8 using;

9 circuitry operable for interrogating said directory at an entry corresponding to said

10 first end-user; and

11 circuitry operable for retrieving parameters associated with said protocol;

12 executing said protocol in accordance with said parameters associated with said

13 protocol.

10. The system according to claim 6 further including the circuitry operable for informing said end-user of said client application that a server application is unavailable if a link to said application server is not established.

11. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the program product for providing transparency in a gateway of an IP network, the program product including a program of instructions for performing the steps of:

interrogating a directory comprising data for each end-user of said IP network;

retrieving parameters associated with said data for a first end-user in response to an access request from a client application of said first end-user;

accessing an application server on behalf of said client application in accordance with said retrieved parameters for said first end-user; and

relaying data between said client application and said application server.

12. The computer program product according to claim 11, further comprising instructions for performing the step of:

creating, in said gateway of said IP network, a directory including entries for every end-user on said IP network.

13. The program product according to claim 11 further comprising instructions for performing the step of:

updating, in said gateway of said network, the directory of said end-users, said step of updating the directory including the steps of:

disabling entries for those of said end-users that disconnect;

enabling entries for those of said end-users that connect; and

updating said entries of said end-users comprising dynamic parameters whenever said parameters are changing while connected.

1   14.   The program product according to claim 11 wherein the step of retrieving
2   parameters associated with said end-user for said request from said client application
3   includes the steps of:
4   obtaining leading data from said client application having issued said request for
5   said end-user;
6   parsing said leading data;
7   determining a protocol said client application is currently using;
8   interrogating said directory at an entry corresponding to said first end-user;
9   retrieving parameters associated with said protocol; and
10   executing said protocol in accordance with said parameters associated with said
11 protocol.

1   15.   The program product according to claim 11 further including instructions for
2   performing the step of informing said end-user of said client application that a server
3   application is unavailable if a link to said application server is not established.